



c/o Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
417 E. Fayette Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(443) 984-0099

## Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Minutes

#### Commissioners in Attendance:

Jon Laria (Chair)  
Terrence Jennings (Vice Chair)  
Meg Young (DOT Rep)  
Molly Gallant (Department of Recreation and  
Parks)

Greg Hinchliffe  
Matt DeSantis (Department of Planning)  
Graham Young (DOT Rep)

#### Agenda

Introduction: Chairman noted the addition of a public comment/question period to the meeting format.

1. March Minutes
  - Approved.
2. City Agency Updates
  - a. Mayor's office
    - Several planned items in the Mayor's office's purview were paused during leadership/staffing changes ongoing and in previous weeks.
  - b. Planning
    - No significant discussion
  - c. DOT
    - Project update provided. Commissioners noted the desire for more detailed project timeline and budgeting information on par with what was delivered for the CIP process. Department agreed.
    - Commissioner questions, responses in italics:
      - Are there drawings to share regarding the planned changes to the protected lane on East Monument Street?
        - *Not at the moment, the design is not finalized.*
      - What is the process for getting DOT to make changes to planned or installed infrastructure?



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- *Department recognized need for a more transparent and consistent public outreach, involvement, and feedback process. This is in development.*
  - Is installation going to occur of the planned bike facility on Madison Street?
    - *No final decision has been made on this.*
  - Can the department provide written answers to these questions once answers are known?
    - *Department agrees to do so.*
  - Can bike-related public meetings and stakeholder meetings be better publicized, and known to commissioners, specifically? This is so that institutions cannot request changes of DOT “in the dark,” without public knowledge of their desires.
    - *Yes, this will be done in the future.*
  - Is there coordination with umbrella organizations such as Main Streets on bike rack placement.
    - *It’s currently a purely request-driven process, but this can be done in the future.*
- Update on Baltimore Greenway Trails Network from Jim Brown and Avery Harmon of Rails to Trails Conservancy. Discussions are ongoing with private property owners who would be essential to this project.
  - RTC and others currently working with developers of the Exxon site.
  - Conversations are ongoing with BGE and CSX.
  - Appraisals should be undertaken by the city appraisers soon.
  - BUILD, Bikeways, and Recreational Trails grants are all being considered for funding.
- d. BPD
  - No BPD representative present.
- e. Recreation and Parks
  - Delivered update on pilot project replacing wayfinding signs in new colors and themes. New signs should be installed in early May.
  - Delivered update on successful Opening Day for Trails event; will scan and send surveys filled out by attendees.
  - Noted need for lights for interested riders.
    - Commissioners discussed MBAC finding grant funding for lights.
  - Greg Hinchliffe delivered update on Tour Dem Parks Hon
    - Concern over Potts & Callahan road closure.

### 3. Discussion of Subcommittees and Timeline Proposal



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- a. Calendar of events
- b. Annual Report
  - *Commissioners agreed this should be produced by end of summer.*
- c. Bike friendly awards
4. Community Updates
  - d. Upcoming events
  - e. Updates from Attendees
5. Vote: City and Community Event to Highlight for May
  - *Commissioners decided to promote Bike to Work Day and Bike to Market Day*
6. Miscellaneous Business
  - None raised
7. Public Comment

Public questions and comments, responses in italics:

- Public wished to officially note that DOT senior leadership left before the public comment period.
- What is the plan, timing, and rationale for the changes of the Roland Avenue separated bike lane?
  - *A contract has been initiated. Pre-marking began this week. Construction should take approximately 1 month.*
- What is the timeline for the installation of the changes besides the removal?

Series of questions and comments regarding Roland Avenue, submitted formally. DOT Agreed to provide answers at a later date.

- The DOT-developed and Planning Commission adopted Separated Lane Network Plan for Baltimore City states “standard five-foot or six-foot bike lanes in the door zone of parked cars are never low stress facilities. Standard or buffered non-separated bike lanes are only low stress facilities when they are next to the curb and average traffic speeds are approximately 30 mph or less.”
- Am I correct that per the data presented in the McCormick Taylor Roland Avenue Cycle Track evaluation for DOT, 85th percentile speeds are in excess of 30mph on Roland Avenue?



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- The NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, codified into law in the Baltimore Complete Streets Ordinance, states that a protected bicycle lane is required on streets with average traffic over 26mph and greater than 6,000 ADT.
- Am I correct that per the data presented in the McCormick Taylor Roland Avenue Cycle Track evaluation for DOT, 85th percentile speeds are in excess of 26 miles per hour and ADT is well over 6,000?
- Can you explain why this change is being pursued given that national best practices adopted into ordinance classify Roland Avenue as requiring a separated bike lane?
- Given that this change is clearly divergent from our adopted national best practices in safe and accessible urban street design, can you describe how this change will, per the recently adopted Baltimore Complete Streets Ordinance, promote biking to the “greatest extent possible?”
- Can you describe how this change will “actively pursue the elimination of health, economic, and access disparities?”
- What is the logic of going against the public survey results produced by DOT, calling for a road diet, the Roland Park Civic League vote asking for the halting of any immediate removal of the protected bike lane, and the overwhelming opposition to removal of a separated bike lane from our stakeholders?
- What is the estimated cost of the removal and reinstallation, including the green paint treatment for the entire corridor?
- Where are the funds coming from for this removal and reinstallation?
- Finally, What is the design speed of the proposed changes to Roland Avenue? What are the proposed lane widths on Roland Avenue?

#### Questions and comments on other topics:

- The community needs to understand a consistent transportation planning and feedback process. Planning by complaint is leading to serious issues. There needs to be a way to make and stick to decisions even in the absence of full consensus.
  - *DOT agreed to this.*
- When will the Mt. Royal Cycle Track be open?
  - DOT agreed to its opening by Tour Dem Parks.
- There’s an upcoming Hamilton Streetscape meeting.
- Need noted for a scooter stencil.



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